

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 /071 W
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R 230452Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6702
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7532

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PK, AF, PFOR
SUBJECT: PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE VISITS

1. SMALL BUT MEANINGFUL SIGNS OF SPRING AFTER THE LONG WINTER FREEZE IN PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR FOLLOWING BHUTTO'S VISIT TO KABUL AND IN ANTICIPATION OF DAOUD'S TRIP TO ISLAMABAD. IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH PREVIOUS POLICY OF PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST AFGHANISTAN IN THE PAK PRESS AND RADIO, PAPERS NOW CARRY ARTICLES BY PAKISTANIS AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONLS (PRC AND INDONESIA) URGING CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. THERE ARE VARIOUS OTHER INDICATORS A GENUINE THAW IS ON. PAKISTANI PAPERS CARRIED A LONG SUPPLEMENT (PAID FOR BY THE AFGHANS) LAUDING AFGHANISTAN ON OCCASION OF AFGHANISTAN'S NATIONAL DAY. MORE IMPORTANT, FOUR GOP CABINET MINISTERS-INCLUDING THE HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL MINISTER OF EDUCATION ABDUL HAFIZ PIRZADA AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SHIEKH MOHAMMAD RASHID- CONSPICUOUSLY ATTENDED AFGHAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION.

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PAK PRESS HAS CARRIED, IN POSITIVE VEIN, ARTICLES ON

VISITS TO AFGHANISTAN OF PAK SPORTS TEAMS AND CULTURAL GROUPS.

3. WARMER TREATMENT OF AFGHANISTAN IN PAK MEDIA AND GENERAL TREND TO ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE IN PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS CONTRAST MARKEDLY WITH VITUPERATIVELY ANTI-AFGHAN PROPAGANDA THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO SCHEDULING OF BHUTTO'S VISIT TO KABUL. GOP IS OBVIOUSLY DOING ITS BEST TO ENSURE THAT ATMOSPHERE FOR DAOUD'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN WILL BE CORDIAL AND CONDUCTIVE TO AMICABLE DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM.
BYROADE

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